

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

Post Office Box 1255

Suffolk, Virginia 23434

May 10, 1984

Dear Member:

The Society will hold its annual meeting Tuesday evening, May 22, 8 PM at Riddick's Folly. Our speaker will be John Sands, President of the Isle of Wight Historical Society. Mr. Sands is the Director of the Mariners Museum in Newport News.

The Executive Committee met on May 3 to receive reports from the Treasurer and the various committees.

Our membership drive appears to be a success. At this writing, we have 78 new members. You will be pleased, I believe, when we publish their names. You will have to excuse me if in my enthusiasm I sent applications to some who were already members. My thanks to Hutchie West and Judy Everett for their excellent help.

On April 14 approximately 100 members of the Williamsburg Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities visited Suffolk and toured Riddick's Folly, the Elmore and Trump homes, and several churches - all on North Main Street. They also visited Oak Island. The tour was arranged on behalf of our Society by Sue Woodward who welcomed the visitors at Riddick's Folly with coffee and donuts. They were a fine group and in appreciation of Sue's efforts, they presented Riddick's Folly with a gift of \$500.00.

Karen Holliday, our Treasurer, has sent dues notices to all active members. The dues payments cover the fiscal year June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985. She reports excellent response.

The Smith family pastels, mentioned in our last newsletter and discussed at our March membership meeting, have been presented (loaned) to us by the Isle of Wight Historical Society. They are most attractive and will be on exhibit at Riddick's Folly at our annual meeting.

We have invited the Executive Board of that Society to our May meeting to thank them for their courtesy and generosity.

Thanks to the efforts of Jimmy Byrd, Mrs. Hilary January and Carlton January have given the Society an excellent male mannequin. We will use it to display military uniforms and period costumes in our collection. We are working to secure several female mannequins for similar purposes. We have recently been given uniforms from various wars and old schools, again with thanks to Jimmy Byrd.

Judge Albert W. Cowper visited Riddick's Folly recently and, through the efforts of Linda Rice, donated to the Society a bound volume "The Cowper Family". The volume traces this fine family in Virginia and North Carolina.

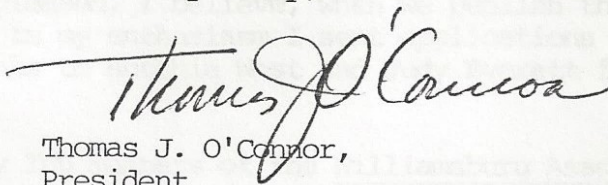
We have asked the Education Committee to formulate plans for our Pictorial Historic Calendar which hopefully will emerge for the 1986 year.

Judy Everett has set up in the showcase at Riddick's Folly a display of china given the Society by Mildred Kilby. It is very attractive and worth seeing.

We will organize our committees for the new year shortly after our annual meeting and plan to blend in our new members. We need to move ahead on many projects, now that we have the manpower. We have members from all corners of "Old Nansemond County" as well as "Old Suffolk" and our efforts will be toward including the entire area.

Many of you are from families who played an important role in area history and we will profit from your information and assistance..

Yours very truly,



Thomas J. O'Connor,
President

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